

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 IO-11 A-01 OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00 SAB-01

OMB-01 /072 W

----- 002629

O 131820Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9004

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 2284

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, LE

SUBJ: SITUATION AS OF 1900

1. TOWN IS AWASH WITH RUMORS, MANY OF THEM CONTRADICTORY. WOULD APPEAR NO REPEAT NO SERIOUS MILITARY MOVE UNDER WAY BY FORCES LOYAL TO FRANGIE IN THE CITY. EARLIER REPORT COL. BARAKAT PROWESS APPEARS WILDLY EXAGGERATED. NEW REPORTS SUGGEST FIGHTING IN ZHGORTA ARE BETWEEN FRANGIE SUPPORTERS AND VARIETY OF LEFTISTS INCLUDING LEBANESE ARAB ARMY UNDER MAMARI.

2. FEVERISH ACTIVITY IN PARLIAMENT TO FIND MEANS OF PERSUADING FRANGIE RESIGN ARE CONTINUING. LATEST MOVE IS TO SEND DELEGATION OF FIVE DEPUTIES CONSIDERED TO BE FRIENDLY TO FRANGIE WHO WILL TRY PERSUADE HIM RESIGN FOR GOOD OF THE COUNTRY LEST LEFTISTS EXPLOIT THE SITUATION. THEY ARE ALSO TO ASSURE HIM IT WILL BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EASY GET 66 DEPUTIES TO FAVOR HIS DEPARTURE. (AFTER CHECKING

CONSTITUTION OURSELVES, WE FIND IMPEACHMENT PROCEDURE EXISTS INVOLVING INDICTMENT, BY TWO-THIRD VOTE OF DEPUTIES BUT IS CUMBERSOME AND IN ANY CASE DOES NOT APPEAR TO FIGURE IN PRESENT DISCUSSIONS.) VARIOUS SOURCES INDICATE GEMAYEL AND PERHAPS EVEN CHAMOUN PREPARED TO SIGN ANY PETITION AND GENERALLY BACKS EFFORT REMOVE FRANGIE.

3. INTERESTING REPORT FROM JOURNALIST OF LEADING AN-NAHAR IS THAT MILITARY ACTION IN FORM OF AIR RAID WAS PLANNED BY AIR FORCE TODAY TO KNOCK OUT FRANGIE-CONTROLLED RADIO STATION AT AMCHIT AND PERHAPS BOMB BAABDA PALACE. PLAN REPORTEDLY ABORTED DUE TO CLOUDY WEATHER. IMPLICATION IS THIS PLAN WILL BE FOLLOWED TOMORROW, WEATHER PERMITTING.

4. ANOTHER UNCONFIRMED REPORT HAS IT THAT LT. KHATIB TODAY CONTACTED ARMY COMMAND SAYING HE WILL DISCUSS REINTEGRATING HIS FORCES WITH ARMY TOMORROW. ANOTHER VERSION SUGGESTS HE WILL REINTEGRATE WHEN FRANGIE GOES.
LAMBRAKIS

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NNN

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